

Mississippi EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

January 28-30, 1991
First Church, Clinton

Theme: Share Heritage and Hope —
EXTEND CHRIST'S MISSION

Dot Pray, Organist Irene Martin, Pianist

MONDAY EVENING J. Garland McKee, Presiding

6:35 Music — Mississippi Singing Churchmen

7:00 Congregational Praise

7:05 Welcome and Prayer

7:15 Instrumental Praise

7:20 Message

7:55 Hymn

8:00 Evangelism in Mississippi

8:10 Choral Praise

8:20 Message

TUESDAY MORNING James Fancher, Presiding

8:45 Praise and Prayer

9:00 Message

9:45 Message

10:20 Break

10:45 Hymn

10:50 Testimony

11:05 Message in Song

11:10 Message

TUESDAY AFTERNOON Eugene H. Dobbs, Presiding

1:45 Praise and Prayer

2:00 Message

2:40 Praise

2:45 Message

3:15 Break

3:35 Testimony

3:55 Message in Song

4:00 Message

4:35 Adjourn

1:45 - 3:45 Prayer and Witnessing (in Chapel) — Esther Burroughs

TUESDAY EVENING James Fancher, Presiding

6:40 Worship in Song

6:55 Praise and Prayer

7:00 Message

7:40 Congregational Praise

7:45 Concert

8:05 Message

WEDNESDAY MORNING J. Garland McKee, Presiding

8:45 Praise Him

9:00 Message

9:45 Testimony

10:00 Hymn

10:05 Praise

10:15 Message

11:00 Adjourn

Southern Baptist scholar helps revise Living Bible

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — As a member of the team that is retranslating *The Living Bible*, Southern Seminary professor Gerald Borchert approaches the task with a mixed view of the popular version of Holy Scripture.

Borchert and other biblical scholars working on the project have an opportunity to make substantive changes to the translation. Their objective, he said, is to keep the paraphrased style of original translator Kenneth Taylor but strive to stay true to the Greek and Hebrew texts.

Taylor's primary goal in the original *Living Bible* was "to translate it for his children in order that they could understand what the Bible is all about," Borchert noted. The style of *The Living Bible* indicates that Taylor is a "fine literary figure," Borchert said. However, he added that Taylor's knowledge of Greek is "not the scholar's Greek" and some of the

language's finer points cause him difficulty.

He also believes *The Living Bible* "tends to be very middle class, very Western and very American in its perspective." *The Living Bible* thus "communicates very well with most North Americans," he said. "The only problem is that it isn't always correct in the translation. What we face is how can you maintain the integrity of the text and still communicate?"

The Living Bible's failure to communicate clearly the sufferings of the early church is an example of its American bias, Borchert said. "The early church was a suffering church and Americans don't want to suffer. I think that's (suffering) a very crucial aspect of the Bible. The Bible doesn't promise you that it will all go happily ever after. The Bible tells you that you may have to suffer and you may even have to die for Jesus and there is not enough of that in *The Living Bible*."

Nashville's Baptist Hospital moves to elect board trustees

NASHVILLE (BP) — Baptist Health Care System board of trustees on Dec. 19 approved amendments in the charter of Nashville's Baptist Hospital which authorizes the hospital to elect its own trustees.

Currently the Tennessee Baptist Convention's committee on nominations annually presents a slate for convention messengers' approval.

The board action permits an increase in number for the hospital board and allows the board to elect its successors when vacancies occur.

Board Chairman Guy Bates, a layman from Joelton, said the corporate reorganization approved at the

regular meeting was part of the board's plan "to prepare the hospital for the challenges of the 1990s." The vote was unanimous, with one abstention.

Bates said the current 27 trustees will comprise the initial membership of the new Baptist Hospital board.

TBC Executive Director-Treasurer D.L. Lowrie said he was unaware of any plans for such action. He said he first learned of the move when he was reached by telephone about 7 p.m. the day of the meeting.

A letter from Stringfield explaining the board's action was delivered to Lowrie's office in Brentwood about 5

p.m., Dec. 19. Lowrie was out of town. Lowrie said he had not yet received an official document. "We will want to review and study the situation," he said.

In the meantime, Lowrie said, TBC attorney Robert Taylor will study appropriate documents regarding TBC-Baptist Hospital relationships. Taylor is a former Baptist Hospital trustee.

"The hospital will continue to maintain a close working relationship with Baptist churches, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Belmont College, the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home, and other Baptist institutions," according to Guy Bates.

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, January 17, 1991

Published Since 1877

Sunday School trustees to decide on Elder's presidency

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — A meeting of the 90-member board of trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has been called for Thursday, Jan. 17, in Nashville "for the purpose of evaluating and responding to the performance" of President Lloyd Elder, according to a letter sent Jan. 11 to all trustees.

The general administration committee which has been reviewing Elder's performance will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 17. The full board will convene at 7 p.m. and, if needed, Friday at 9 a.m. The called meeting comes 17 days before a regularly scheduled meeting of the board Feb. 4-6 in Nashville.

Bill Anderson, chairman of trustees and pastor of Calvary Church of Clearwater, Fla., said Jan. 12 the meeting was called after he received written petitions from more than 20 trustees. He declined to name those trustees.

Sunday School Board trustee bylaws state that "special meetings of the Board may be called by or at the request of the Chairman of the Board or upon the written petition of any 15 trustees."

Anderson said a five-member workgroup of the general administration committee met in Nashville Dec. 13 to review Elder's performance as president. Members included Dan Collins, chairman of the general administration committee and an attorney from Taylors, S.C.; Gene Mims, vice chairman of trustees and pastor of First Church of Cleveland, Tenn.; Bobby Welch, pastor of First Church of Daytona Beach, Fla.; Floyd Williams, president of Franchise Personnel Agency in Memphis, Tenn.; and Anderson.

"We discussed at length some issues that have arisen, particularly the McBeth book," said Anderson. The administration of the board withdrew before publication a centennial history of the Sunday School Board written by Leon McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, after a committee of trustees reviewed the manuscript in August 1990. The trustee committee voted unanimously to "counsel the administration not to proceed with the publishing of the book."

Anderson said the 17-member

general administration committee met Jan. 4 to consider the report of the workgroup. He declined comment on whether the committee has asked Elder to resign or retire.

"The general administration committee discussed with Lloyd all kinds of options related to what many consider an impasse in leadership at the board," said Anderson. "The committee is still discussing options, all kinds of options."

Elder declined comment regarding the called meeting or issues related to his performance to "honor the executive privilege" of the general administration committee.

Anderson said the general administration committee will meet on Jan. 17 to "refine a recommendation" for presentation to the full board.

"My assumption is they will make a recommendation. I don't know at this time what that recommendation will be," said Anderson.

In response to why a meeting was being called less than three weeks before a regularly scheduled meeting of the trustees, Anderson said the

(See ELDER on page 5)

Lloyd Elder may be fired

NASHVILLE (ABP) — Lloyd Elder may be fired as president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board when trustees meet Thursday (Jan. 17) in a hastily-called special meeting.

Trustee leadership announced the meeting Friday (Jan. 11) after Elder reportedly refused to resign as president of the publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention which employs 1,882 persons.

New controversy arose on Saturday (Jan. 12) after a television reporter aired a copy of Elder's confidential response to the trustee leaders apparently declining to resign.

Sources close to Elder said he was shocked and mystified as to how the reporter obtained a copy of the confidential letter. The letter also was sent by first class mail on Friday afternoon to the members of the board's general administration committee.

The special meeting has been called for 7 p.m. Jan. 17, and may go over into Jan. 18. The called meeting is only 17 days in advance of the regular semi-annual meeting of the 90-member trustee board, scheduled Feb. 4-6 in Nashville.

In a letter sent to all trustees Jan. 11, the meeting was called "for the

purpose of evaluating and responding to the performance" of Elder, who has been president since 1984.

Elder met in closed session Jan. 11 with at least three trustee officers. Reports circulated the trustee leaders had come to Nashville to hear Elder's response to an undisclosed recommendation about his future as president of the SSB.

Elder met with a five-member workgroup of the general administration committee of trustees Dec. 13, to review his performance as president.

Bill Anderson, pastor of Calvary Church in Clearwater, Fla., and

(See FIRED on page 5)

Senior adults can be key to reaching young families

Part 6 of 6
By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — Churches desiring to reach young families — considered essential to church growth — do not have to send older church members packing.

In fact, graying members can actually help a church grow, contended B.J. Dier, a recently retired home missionary who specialized in senior adult ministries. "The greatest asset most churches have is the senior adults, if they will get them in the harness and give them a place of service."

Research confirms that plateaued and declining churches have a higher-than-average concentration of older adults in their membership.

In a study of churches in Memphis, Tenn., John Vaughan discovered that churches with more than 18 percent of enrollment age 60 and above were plateaued. Churches composed of more than 20 percent senior adults were declining, the professor at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., found.

"The message is you've got to continue to attract and reach young families, and that means teenagers," Vaughan said. "A mark of a growing church is that it will have 12 to 15 percent youth. Youth don't stay around a church that's dying."

An often-repeated principle of church growth is that a church can either grow younger and larger or older and smaller. The problem commonly faced by pastors of plateaued and declining churches is how to retain the senior adults and attract younger families at the same time.

How it turns out depends upon the attitude of the senior adults and on the attitude of the pastor, experts say:

— If senior adults are willing to accept change for the sake of growth, the church will succeed. But if senior adults insist on running a church in the 1990s the way it was done 30 years ago, the church will decline.

— On the other hand, if a pastor embraces older adults as partners in growth, he will be successful. But if he disregards older members in an all-out effort to recruit younger members, he faces an uphill battle.

"To keep the older people worshipping and satisfied, you have to have things different from what the newer and younger people are going to

want," explained Ebbie Smith, professor of missions at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. "It is a dilemma. But we must be very careful not to forget the old people and set them aside in order to meet the new people. We've got to reach the new but we've got to care for the old."

The solution is challenging older adults with meaningful ministry instead of just forming social groups, Dier believes. "Instead of putting senior adults to work in ministry and missions, most churches organize them into something different. It becomes a go-go club, and they're not really involved in what the church is."

Pastors with a vision to reclaim a plateaued or declining church can harness the power of senior adults by making them part of the "dream team," added Jay Johnston, a senior adult consultant with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Senior adults are open to reaching younger families, if the pastor will equip them for the task, Johnston said. "The senior adults can be challenged to go out and reach that high school student or that young adult. They just have to regroup and find out how to do it."

Pastors must spend time with their senior adults and "find out what gifts and talents they have to offer instead of just writing them off," he suggested. Rather than being the wall that keeps a church from growth, senior adults could be the walkway that leads to growth, he says.

Bringing young families into a church with a concentration of older adults can benefit both groups, Johnston said. The senior adults like to be around children, and the young parents want their children to be around older adults.

With an increasingly mobile society, young families often live thousands of miles away from grandparents, and senior adults live far away from their own grandchildren.

For too long Southern Baptists have looked at senior adults as saints who shouldn't be disturbed, Johnston contended. "If we make the senior adults aware of what potential is out there and equip them, they can make a difference. They can go claim that mountain."

Wingfield writes for HMB.

Ingram music minister retires after 35 years

Ingram Church (Prentiss County) minister of music has retired after 35 years. Lee Crawford, minister of music at Ingram since 1955, has been singing most of his life.

Jan. 27 has been designated as "Lee Crawford Day" at Ingram. A special service will be conducted Sunday morning and lunch will be served in the fellowship hall.

Friends of the Crawfords are invited.

Ingram Church now plans to combine duties of minister of music and youth. The Search Committee has asked for recommendations. Send name and/or resume to Bobby Carr, Rt. 1, Baldwyn, MS 38824.

It all began when Lee received a harmonica for Christmas at age 3. By lunch time that Christmas day he was making music on the harmonica. By

the time he was in the first grade he was singing just about anything the older students asked him to out on the playground. He always got the singing parts in school plays and programs.

Singing schools were a part of his growing up. In 1946, he graduated from the Stamps Baxter School of Music in Chattanooga.

He began leading music when only 14 at Piney Grove Church (Tippah County) where he was a member. From Piney Grove his family moved to Oak Hill Church, Prentiss County, where Lee led the music at Oak Hill for several years.

In 1955, he became song director at Ingram Church. Until the late '70s he served on a voluntary basis. Then they began to pay a salary to the minister of music. He has taught singing schools, written songs, composed music, and organized and led the Crawford Quartet, which has sung in revivals and singings and hundreds of funeral services.

Joe Herndon is pastor, Ingram Church.



Four students with Mississippi ties received doctoral degrees from New Orleans Seminary during commencement exercises Dec. 21. Standing, left to right, are Robin Jumper, of Etta, doctor of philosophy degree; Reid Whittington, of Meri-

dian, doctor of education degree; Landrum P. Leavell II, seminary president; Kenneth Moore, of Montpelier, doctor of ministry degree; and Benny Jones, of Mathiston, doctor of philosophy degree.

New Orleans Seminary grants degrees

Four Mississippians received their doctoral degrees from New Orleans Seminary during commencement exercises on Dec. 21. They include H. Reid Whittington, Meridian, now staff chaplain and associate director in the department of pastoral services at East Mississippi State Hospital, doctor of education; Kenneth W. Moore, Montpelier, now pastor of Enon Church, Jayess, doctor of ministry; George Robin Jumper, Etta, now pastor of Wellman Church, Bogue Chitto, doctor of philosophy; Benny J. Jones, Mathiston, now pastor of a new church start in Destrehan, La., doctor of philosophy.

Receiving their masters' degrees during the same ceremony were David Scott Palmer, Sand Springs,

Okla., now pastor of Sylvarena Church, Wesson, master of divinity; Harold Batteaste Watkins, Hattiesburg, master of religious education; Barry C. Ward, Flora, now pastor of Antioch Church, Florence, master of religious education; B. Allen Simpson, Eupora, master of divinity; Randy Sims, Soso, now associate pastor for youth and singles at Southside Church, Huntsville, Ala., master of divinity; David Brent Causey, Summit, now pastor of Mount Zion Church, Osyka, master of divinity; Steve Coleman, Jackson, now minister of music at Mount Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto, master of arts in Christian education; Scott William Crawford, Pearl, now seminary intern and pastor of Rachel Sims Church, New Orleans, master of divinity.

William G. Dowdy Jr., Booneville, now pastor at West Union Church, Carriere, master of divinity; Richard Keith Manuel, Ocean Springs, now pastor of Beacon Church, Hattiesburg, master of divinity; Otho Jay Seals, Picayune, now associate pastor and minister of youth at Pine Grove Church, Picayune, master of divinity; Billy Purser, Mendenhall, now pastor of Willow Grove Church, Collins, master of arts in Christian education; Philip Price, Calhoun City, now minister of music and youth at Pleasant Hill Church, Pine Grove, La., master of divinity.

Larry G. Hawkins, Macon, now pastor of Union Church, Pascagoula, received the associate of divinity degree.

Legislative session begins

By Paul Jones

The 1991 session of the Mississippi Legislature has begun. Special interest groups are already working to alter the lifestyle of the citizens of the state. Increase in the availability of alcohol, the allowing of the manufacture of alcoholic beverages in the state, the legalization of video poker and the removal of the prohibition against lottery are all moving through the Legislature.

Committees are meeting and decisions are being made on legislation which would greatly impact the lives of most citizens. Now is the time to inform your legislator of your opinions on many of the matters listed below. Persons wishing to contact their representatives or senators may do so by writing them at Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215, or calling them at 359-3770.

ABORTION

HB 113 would prohibit the use of public funds for abortions.

HB 114 would prohibit the use of public facilities for abortions.

HB 327 provides that before a physician performs an abortion on any woman who is 24 or more weeks pregnant that the viability of the unborn child be determined. The law would prohibit the abortion of a viable unborn child unless necessary to preserve the life or health of the woman.

ALCOHOL

HB 204 would allow liquor stores to sell party goods. The limited focus provided by the state alcohol beverage laws would be expanded so liquor stores could compete with stores which sell party items but stores selling party items could not compete with liquor stores.

HB 351 would legalize the manufacture, sale, distribution, and transportation of intoxicating liquors in the state. This bill would radically expand the rights given to alcohol sellers and would allow the manufacture of liquor

in the state.

CHILDREN

HB 85 would provide criminal penalties for failure to report neglected or abused children. This could put teeth into the Mandated Reporting Act.

HB 86 would provide for registration with law enforcement of all sex offenders.

HB 89 would increase the penalty for selling tobacco to minors.

HB 316 would make it unlawful for any parent to permit a minor child to carry a concealed weapon.

DRUGS

HB 84 would not allow for a suspended sentence or parole for a person convicted of selling drugs to a minor. In essence, sell to a kid, and go to jail, period.

HB 300 would provide for no parole for persons convicted of drug offenses when a minor is employed or used in the commission of such a crime.

EDUCATION

HB 88 would prohibit weapons on public school premises.

HB 245 would provide that any pupil has the option of reciting the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag each school day. It would also provide that no student shall be disciplined or penalized for not reciting such a pledge.

HB 309 provides under certain circumstances immunity from civil or criminal liability to certain school personnel who inform parents of a child's unlawful use of alcohol and other drugs.

ENVIRONMENT

HB 21 would create the Mississippi Recycling Act. The need to be more environmentally responsible could refocus attention on what it means to be earth stewards.

FAMILY

HB 285 would remove the statutory presumption that child custody should

normally be awarded to the mother.

HB 290 would create the "Uniform Premarital Agreement Act" to allow premarital agreements regarding any interests either present or future in real or personal property including income and earnings.

GAMBLING

HCR 24 would establish a state-operated lottery to fund education.

HB 125 would establish the Video Card Machine Control Law of 1991. This is part of the mechanism to legalize video poker and to use whatever proceeds to fund public education.

GOVERNMENT

HB 1, HCR 25, HCR 26 would reduce the size of the state Legislature in an attempt to reduce state expenditures.

HB 22 would provide for a referendum calling for a constitutional amendment.

HCR 23 and HCR 27 would propose a reduction in the length of the annual, regular session of the Legislature.

HEALTH

HB 164 would prohibit smoking at public high schools.

HB 183 would prohibit use of tobacco vending machines.

MEDIA

HB 339 would place cable television companies under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission.

Your attention is needed immediately. Your representative and senator need to hear from you today. Your card, letter, and/or call could be the key to restoring the historic ethical framework of the state. Your Christian Action Commission stands ready to assist the membership of the 2,000 churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and can be contacted at Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, 968-3800.

Jones is executive director-treasurer of Christian Action Commission.

Mississippi women make WMU connections in Peru

By Vicki Heath
Part 4 of 4

The following article is condensed from journal excerpts written by Vicki Heath of Jackson while on volunteer mission trip to Peru with Ashley McCaleb, Jackson; Bobbie Foster, Prentiss; and Janet Murray, Jackson.

September 24, Monday

The next morning we left early to bounce back down the mountain.

Rodolph took us to the airport, driving past Chan Chan where we could see the excavated ruins.

September 25, Tuesday

We found out today that our Friday flight has been cancelled and that we will have to go home Thursday.

We took Peggy, Karl, Christina, and Jacob to dinner at Rincon Gaucho (Cowboy's Corner), a lovely restaurant at the shore. The coastline is bleak cliff to the edge of the water, some beach, and very cold water.

September 26, Wednesday

Ashley and Janet got off for Iquitos. Bobbie and I, accompanied by Cathy Phillips, headed south to Arequipa. We arrived at the airport for a three-hour wait while two men handwashed the outside of the airport!

En route to Arequipa we flew over some snowcapped mountains.

We went straight on to our conference at the Jerusalem Church, which was packed with people. We had been told not to be surprised if there were only five people there.

There were 50 women at the meeting! This group was the most responsive group of all. They all wanted our autographs and presented us with gifts made of the volcanic ash native to the area.

September 27, Thursday

The next morning Pam Shearer and Kim Johnson picked us up for breakfast at a beautiful restaurant on the riverbank. The snowcapped volcano, Misti, was in the background. People were washing and drying clothes along the riverbank. On the grounds were monkeys and llamas.

We enjoyed these young, fresh missionaries so much. To see their enthusiasm and zeal was great. I was able to give my new gown and robe to Pam to wear when she goes to the hospital to have her baby.

About 20 minutes after our plane was airborne, we began an unscheduled descent. We became rather nervous when the pilot announced a stop in Tacna. We were at the border of Chile, in the opposite direction from Lima. Kathy remarked, "Now you've been literally from one end of the country to the other, from Tumbes to Tacna."

After about an hour-and-a-half on the ground, we continued on our way, turned around, and headed to Lima.

At the airport to catch a 12:30 flight, it was strange to part company with Karl and Peggy and proceed alone.

They had been so good to carry things for us, translate, and take care of our money.

We went to a small waiting room. After a couple of hours, Janet's name was called. We went outside where all our luggage was piled on the tarmac, where anyone could get it, and were told to identify it and show our luggage tags.

September 28, Friday

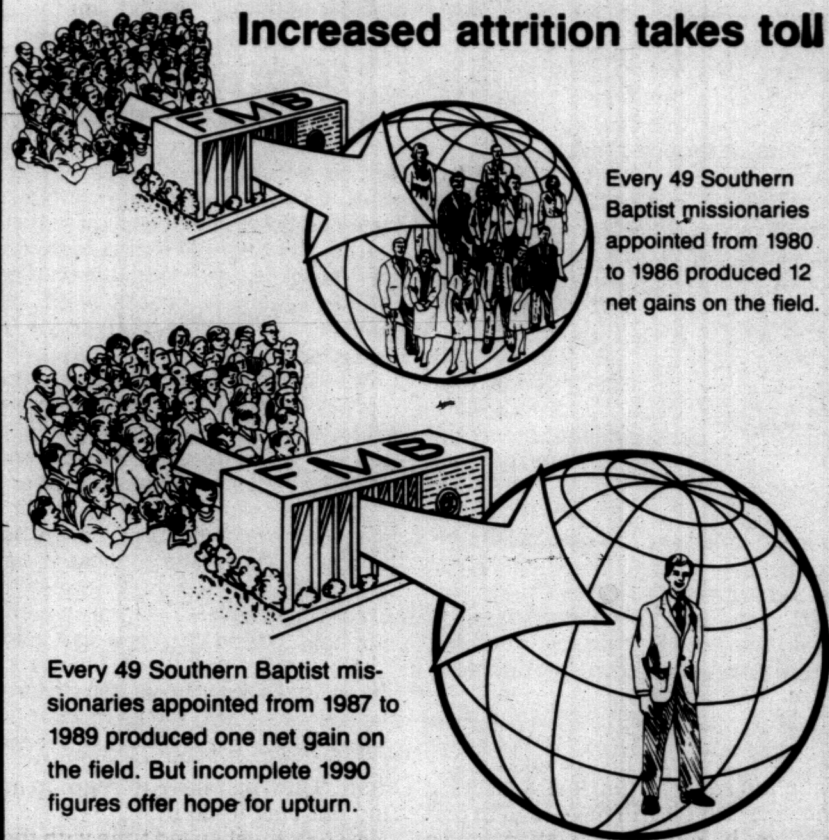
We sighted the Miami skyline and beach about 7 a.m. God bless the USA!

We trudged to the Faucett Airline desk to get a paper explaining to Delta that we had to change our ticket arrangements because Faucett had cancelled our flight. The man at the Faucett desk refused to help, but at the Delta desk, the lady took one look at me and took pity. We flew on standby without difficulty, arriving in Jackson at 7:55 p.m.

We arrived in Jackson different people from when we had left. We were much more knowledgeable about Peru; much more enlightened about the obstacles faced daily by our missionaries; much more concerned about the poverty and terrible conditions under which the Peruvians live; much more hopeful and thrilled about Christians in Peru. But most of all, much more convinced that God had called us to a task and we had accomplished it.

Overseas missionary force:

Increased attrition takes toll



Missionary attrition rate rises

For most of the 1980s, annual foreign missionary appointments more than compensated for attrition losses. However, in the late '80s a decline in appointments stripped the Foreign Mission Board of its attrition hedge and accentuated the seriousness of the increase in resignations and retirements. This also causes a drop in missionary net gains on the field. For every 49 missionaries appointed from 1980 to 1986, the mission field gained 12 missionaries. However, from 1987 to 1989, every 49 appointments produced only one net gain on the field. Board officials hope 1990's higher appointment total will begin to improve this vital ratio. (BP) GRAPH by Burriel Perry

ELDER

From page 3

written petitions of more than 20 trustees had specified a called meeting prior to the Feb. 4-6 semi-annual meeting.

"I believe their (trustees) desire is to go ahead with this (review of Elder's performance) and not preempt the other business that will be dealt with in February," said Anderson. "We have no option but to call the meeting."

He said he could not anticipate trustee preference regarding a closed or open session for the called meeting.

In August 1989, a motion to fire Elder was discussed for more than one hour in an open session before the motion was withdrawn.

"I would much rather do business in an open meeting, as a general principle," said Anderson. "I don't know what the will of the trustees will be or what the preference of Lloyd Elder will be."

Anderson said the Jan. 17 meeting has been called for the single purpose "of reviewing and responding to the performance of the president."

The trustee bylaw concerning special meetings states that "only such business for which any special meeting may be called shall be acted upon; however, other business may be transacted upon unanimous consent of the trustees present and voting."

As to whether trustees are likely to review the performance of other members of the administration in the future, Anderson said he had "no information about that."

"I appreciate the spirit of the general administration committee," said Anderson. "I sense a tremendous loyalty to the institution itself."

Lawson writes for BSSB.

FIRED

From page 3

chairman of the trustee board, said, "We discussed at length some issues that have arisen, particularly concerning the McBeth book."

The administration of the board withdrew before publishing a centennial history of the Sunday School Board in August 1990, after a committee of trustees reviewed the manuscript. The book was written by Leon McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

The trustees felt the book was "biased" and the committee voted unanimously to "counsel the administration not to proceed with the publishing of the book."

The handling of the McBeth book has become a critical issue, particularly with some trustees. ABP learned that trustee Larry Holly, a medical doctor from Beaumont, Texas, met with the Dec. 13 evaluation workgroup to criticize Elder's performance.

ABP also has learned Holly has written at least one letter critical of Elder which he sent to all members of the board. Holly, in circulating the criticisms to all trustees, brought about an hour-long discussion in August of 1989 to fire Elder. The motion to terminate was withdrawn.

ABP also has learned at least four other trustees have written letters critical of Elder which have circulated to the entire board.

After the Dec. 13 meeting, the five-member subcommittee reported to a Jan. 4 meeting of the 17-member general administration committee. The meeting, according to reports, lasted well past midnight.

"The general administration com-

mittee discussed with Lloyd (Elder) all kinds of options related to what many consider an impasse in leadership at the board," Anderson said. "The committee is still discussing options, all kinds of options."

Reports indicated the recommendation was that Elder either resign or retire. Reports also indicate that Elder declined to do either when he met with trustee leaders Jan. 11.

Anderson told the SSB office of communication he called the special session of trustees after he received written petitions from more than 20 trustees. He declined to name those trustees.

Sunday School Board guidelines say "special meetings" may be called "by or at the request of the chairman or upon the written petition of any 15 trustees."

The special called meeting — just days before the regular meeting — likely will cost in excess of \$50,000. Estimates are based on the special called meeting of the SBC Executive Committee in July, which cost about \$40,000.

Anderson was asked why the meeting was called less than three weeks before a regularly scheduled meeting of trustees. He said the written petitions had specified a called meeting prior to the Feb. 4-6 semi-annual meeting.

"I believe their (trustees) desire is to go ahead with this (review of Elder's performance) and not preempt the other business that will be dealt with in February. We had no option but to call the meeting," Anderson said.

Elder declined to comment to reporters.

Dan Collins, an attorney from Taylors, S.C., and chair of the general administration committee, said it is his understanding the called meeting will be open. However, Anderson said

he could not anticipate trustee preference on whether it will be a closed or open session.

In the August 1989 session, during which a motion to fire Elder was discussed for more than an hour, trustees opted to hold an open meeting.

Anderson said the Jan. 17 meeting had been called for the single purpose of reviewing and "responding to the performance" of Elder. He added trustee bylaws allow for other business to transact "upon the unanimous consent of the trustees present and voting."

Asked whether trustees likely will review the performance of other members of the administration, Anderson said he "had no information about that."

Elder, 57, was elected president-elect of the board in February 1983 and was installed as president in February 1984. He was elected without opposition, although two fundamental-conservatives on the board abstained from voting.

Previously, Elder, a native of Dallas, was executive vice president of Southwestern Seminary, 1978-83; assistant to the executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, 1975-78, and pastor of several Texas churches.

He is a graduate of Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas, and holds two degrees, including a doctorate from Southwestern Seminary. His wife, Sue, had heart bypass surgery in Nashville's Baptist Hospital Dec. 24.

(This story was written by ABP News Director Dan Martin and based on reports by Linda Lawson, SSB office of communications, and Ray Waddle, religion editor of the NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN. ABP News Director Martin plans to cover the called meeting of the SSB.)

It is sad to see people squandering money and know you can't help them. — The Tiro (Ohio) World

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FOR SALE: CHURCH MINI-BUS, 1980 Dodge Sportsman, seats 21 adults, luggage compartment in rear, dual A/C, dual rear tires, lots of miles, lots of miles left, \$4,500. Fulton Bridge Church, Hamilton, Alabama (205) 921-3669 or (205) 921-9019.

"Bluebird" travels to Belize

Two summers ago, 40 youths and adults from First Church, Hattiesburg, flew to Belize for an eight-day mission. The door to a new mission endeavor was opening for the entire church membership.

After the week on campus at the Vo-Tech School, sponsored by Global Outreach, headquartered in Tupelo, the youths and sponsors shared their experiences. Soon planning was being done that would involve many others.

The Baptist Men adopted two projects in relations to the Vo-Tech School: 1) secure a useable bus and drive it down, and 2) build the school a woodwork shop to teach the young men the skills of carpentry and woodworking.

In February, eight men from the church loaded the bus and made the six-day trip through Texas and Mexico. Just driving the highways, surviving the language barrier and trusting an old bus was a great faith builder as well as providing transportation for the 33 boys and staff.

In March, nine adults flew to Belize and worked for a week at the compound. In the mornings work consisted of sorting used clothing and shoes the group took for the boys; working in the garden; painting and freshening up areas; building/repairing work sheds; and meal preparations. Since over 30 boys (ages 11-17)

live on campus, there are many demands and needs day by day.

In the afternoons, the FBC team, along with four of the boys from the compound, ventured into a nearby refugee camp of some 3,000 who had fled from Honduras, Guatemala, and other Central American countries. They huddle in safe places throughout Belize, dividing into teams to handle age-group needs. Volunteers were able to teach 94 preschoolers, 104 children, and 20 adults daily in the Bible schools.

Two young men, Mark Herrington and Wes Crider, made plans to spend eight weeks there, helping in teaching, working, and serving as houseparents to the boys during the summer. In early July, a second youth team flew down. Some 50 of them arrived to see the Belize River the highest it had been in 10 years. Having to maneuver across the river each day in an eight-man boat, pulled by a rope on a guide line, the youths proved to be survivors. Out of five Bible schools, 700 children were reached, and the pastor baptized five men in a nearby creek the last day of class.

Already the Baptist Men were preparing for a three-phase project to construct a woodwork shop for the school. In July Phase I had to be aborted due to the heavy floods in Belize. However, funds were sent to

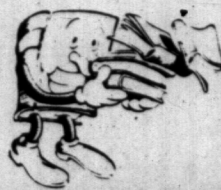
the school and nearby Mennonites were hired to pour the cement foundation during the "dry times." So when the crew arrived in September for Phase II they found a perfect foundation for the 25 x 50 shop waiting for them. Staying busy all week, they left behind a completed shop (framed, roofed and ready for limited use). Phase III was planned to complete the project. This was done the week after Thanksgiving when a team of four arrived to install ceiling lights, fans, plumbing and partition off a classroom. The finishing touch was to stain the outside and then have a commissioning service.

The service had to be rushed on the last day, for the river was rising again at a rate of one foot per hour.

For 18 months, over 120 men, women, and youths had invested at least one week each to help meet the needs of young men, their families in the villages, and the staff at Global Outreach. The church's minister of media, Merle Guyton, and wife Carla, made the commitment to return to Belize and serve as full-time staffer with Global Outreach. They will be leaving Hattiesburg in early February.

Don McCarley, Clarksdale, is the director of the Vo-Tech School and Global Ministry in Belize. He is a graduate of Mississippi State and has served for two years. Don works closely with men's work teams and youth mission groups as they plan mission projects in that area. His father is Wade McCarley, pastor of Riverside Church, Clarksdale.

From the senior adults who bake cookies/brownies and send to the boys, to the RAs who collect shoes/t-shirts for the boys there, the BYW who pack boxes of small children's clothing for the families in the villages, to the men who would never think of going, but have adopted one of the boys for the year, these are some of the ways MISSIONS HAS COME ALIVE.



Book reviews

Swindoll, Charles R. **SANCTITY OF LIFE: THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE.** Waco: Word. 1990.

The author has been senior pastor of the First Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton, Calif., since 1971. He is a well-known author in evangelical circles.

In the introduction, the author states that of all the people-related issues he has been involved in throughout his ministry, none is more significant than the sanctity of life and sexual purity. "Remaining silent on either is no longer an option," says the author. Thus, the author decided to speak out and has received an overwhelmingly positive response. This little volume is the result of his efforts to speak out in this sensitive and important issue.

In the first chapter, the author states candidly, "It has come to the time where the most dangerous place to be in America is not in the inner city where gangs threaten innocent lives or in angry prisons where only the fit survive . . . but in the womb of a mother who is being told if she doesn't really want the baby, an abortion is the solution." The author then gives the reader the four reasons he has chosen to speak out on this subject: 1) To inform us of the facts, 2) To help us gain courage to stand up and speak out against this national crime, 3) To motivate us to be involved, and 4) To share a biblical basis for issues at hand.

In the first chapter, Swindoll shares some statistics related to abortion, asks a pertinent question "Why are children aborted?", shares the answer, shares some scriptures related to abortion, and provides some helpful suggestions to the Christian who

wants to get involved in the war on abortion but is not certain how to. This is a good chapter and worth the price of the book.

The second chapter confronts the effects abortion has on a young woman who has chosen to have one. It is a revealing chapter. One story in particular is illuminating. The final two chapters deal with the need for God's people to stand up and speak out on issues such as abortion.

This is a good book. I strongly recommend it to any Christian. Swindoll does what he is noted for: taking a complicated and sometimes confusing subject and making it crystal-clear. He does that in this book. — Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor, Heuck's Retreat Church, near Brookhaven.

REMEMBER, I LOVE YOU, Martha's Story by Charlie W. Shedd (HarperSanFrancisco, 169 pages, \$14.95) This book is wise and witty, with laughter sprinkled amidst its tears. It is Charlie Shedd at his best, for it is the story of Martha, Charlie's wife. "Remember, I love you" was Martha's constant message to her husband. Here in this book is the story of their courtship and marriage; their years in early pastorates; their growing love and appreciation for each other, especially Charlie's growing appreciation for Martha; his grief at her death; and his search for comfort in the months after her death. Many readers have known Charlie and Martha Shedd through their books and conferences on Christian living, love, and marriage. Certainly their own marriage, as shown in this story, sets an example to be followed. Highly recommended reading. — AWM

CP receipts second highest for month of December

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program unified budget receipts in December 1990 totaled \$11,192,207, an increase of 6.73 percent over December of 1989.

The December 1990 total was the second highest December Cooperative Program giving amount on record. Receipts for the same month in 1988 totaled a record \$12,151,002.

Bennett emphasized, "Most Southern Baptists are aware that the Cooperative Program is the lifeline of support for our world mission program. Cooperative Program dollars received by the Executive Committee represent only a portion of the total Cooperative Program gifts. The state

mission programs are supported by Cooperative Program funds which remain in the state conventions. The division of Cooperative Program funds between states and the Southern Baptist Convention is approximately 61 percent for states and 39 percent for the Southern Baptist Convention."

Designated gifts received by the Executive Committee for the three-month period, primarily for the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions and the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions, experienced growth comparable to the Cooperative Program, a 3.61 percent increase over the same three months of 1989.

Artists headline PraiSing II celebrations

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist humorist Jerry Clower, vocalist Karla Worley, and keyboard artists Max Lyall and Al Travis are among personalities announced for the March 11 opening of PraiSing II.

PraiSing II is a four-day worship and praise celebration in Nashville. Vocalist Cynthia Clawson, The Centurymen, handbell ringer Christine Anderson, and dramatist Ragan Courtney will lead Tuesday evening's event. On Wednesday, pianists Stephen Nielson and Ovid Young, soprano Henrietta Davis and baritone David Ford along with a 200-voice choir of Baptist college and seminary students will lead in worship.

Unveiling of *The Baptist Hymnal*, led by Wesley Forbis, hymnal editor and director of the Sunday School Board's church music department, will be Thursday evening. A 1,300-voice choir, handbell ringers, and an orchestra directed by Camp Kirkland will present "Songs of Faith at the Heart of Baptist People."

Cost for the week is \$50, including all concerts and celebration services. A limited number of nightly tickets is available at \$15 for Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. Cost for Thursday night's celebration is \$20. Checks, payable to the Sunday School Board, should be sent to P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

BWA starts fund for East Europe

McLEAN, Va. (BP) — Baptists from around the world can feed people in Eastern Europe during this time of severe food shortages through a special fund of the Baptist World Alliance.

Working through Baptist Response-Europe, Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of the BWA will send funds collected to the European Baptist Federation in Hamburg, Germany. These funds will be used for food packages for people in Romania, Bulgaria, the Soviet Union and wherever needed.

These 11-pound packages will be trucked to Romania and Bulgaria with some packages being shipped to the Baltic republics and other parts of the USSR.

Food packages will contain items such as sugar, margarine, oil, flour, rice, cheese, powdered milk, cocoa, coffee, chocolate, soap, washing

powder, aspirin or aspirin substitutes, instant soups, sausages, and canned meats.

Each package will cost \$25 to put together and ship, estimated Paul Montacute, director of Baptist World Aid.

"If the same package were shipped from the U.S.," said Montacute, "it would cost nearly \$50 to airmail and \$25 to send by surface mail, and then it would not arrive until winter had ended. This system will feed more people."

For the last two months, European Baptists, who were first alerted to the need by visits of EBF leaders and letters from churches, have been sending food and basic medicine packages to Romania and Bulgaria.

Both Montacute and Parker, who serve on Baptist Response-Europe, stressed the need for Baptists to work through Baptist Response-Europe and

the Baptist World Alliance.

Churches are asked not to send truckloads of food and clothing because there are problems with both storing and distributing such bulky, unpackaged shipments.

The small Baptist Response-Europe packages will be distributed to the most needy through networks established by local churches in the countries.

"We already have heard reports that the packages are getting through," said Parker. "It is essential that the packages be sent through this Baptist Response-Europe system since we've heard of others winding up for sale on the black market."

In a further hunger alert, Montacute is calling on Baptists to remember the people of Africa, especially in the Sudan. Baptists World Aid already has a fund for this hunger appeal.

Status quo for Southeastern Seminary

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) has maintained Southeastern Seminary's "warning" status for another year.

In a decision announced Dec. 12, SACS decided to continue the current status of "warning." SACS indicated that there had been significant improvement at Southeastern. However, the "warning" status will be retained for an additional year while the school continues to address its concerns.

L. Russ Bush, III, vice president for

academic affairs/dean of the faculty, in response to the continued "warning" status, said, "I think the SACS decision is quite understandable. Though we have implemented several processes to address accreditation issues, in some cases we have not yet completed them."

The faculty selection procedure was cited as one example. "We adopted a new faculty selection process that we hope will meet the Commission's expectations, but it will not have produc-

ed a candidate until March of 1991. Until we work the process all the way through at least once, it is hard for anyone to make a final evaluation of its effectiveness. Thus SACS has maintained the status quo until we have had time to let the new process run its course." Bush said he believes that information about the Faculty/Trustee retreat held in early October has helped SACS to see that the Seminary is making a strong effort to meet all of their criteria.



Bluebird — Hattiesburg men drive bus to Belize, with love.

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

Bettye Bingham retires

Bettye Bingham is one of my oldest friends — not in age, but in number of years I've known her. In 1953, when I first arrived at the Baptist Building, I met her in the Student Work department. She had already been an employee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board since 1949, her junior year in college. That means that when she retired Dec. 31, 1990, she had worked for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, either full-time or part-time, for 41 years!

She remembers, "First I worked for Martin J. Gilbert, who headed the Rural Church Department. My secretarial duties included changing cots and cooking meals in the basement of the old Baptist Building. Soon the BSU office needed a part-time secretary and Charlie Horner asked me to work the other half of each day for him. These two offices were at opposite ends of the upstairs, and when the phone would ring down the hall, I'd run to catch it."

Following years included more time with Student Work plus Cooperative Missions, and then 14 years as secretary in the Evangelism Department.

While her children were small, she stayed home a few years. Yet then she was continually doing art work at home for the WMU Department. She says, "I designed stage backdrops, program covers, and any other idea Miss Edwina Robinson had, from styrofoam statues to glittered banners."

Bettye tells me she was born in Jackson. After her graduation from Forest Hill High School in 1946, she studied two years at "the W" before she transferred to Belhaven. That's when Brother Gilbert hired her.

She married Charles Bingham — whom she had met at a basketball game — in a wedding at Van Winkle Church July 28, 1950.



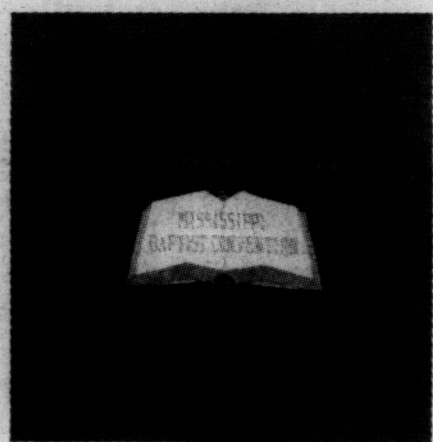
Camp Garaywa emblem

For a couple of years, she and I were in the same Sunday School class at Daniel Memorial; then she and Charles moved their letters to Alta Woods Church, where they remained until he became minister of music at Port Gibson Church about three years ago. At Alta Woods, she taught senior adults and college age in Sunday School.

In the late '50s, she was my

neighbor. Her house on Mason Boulevard was less than a block from mine on North Hines Street. When I gave birthday parties for my nieces and nephew, her children were among the guests. I found out that one of Bettye's chief interests was interior decorating, and that she was immensely talented in art; so I was always asking her advice on some project I was planning at my house.

When she went back to school and got her degree from Mississippi College in 1971, her major was in art. Then for two years she taught art at



Bettye Bingham designed the logo that centers the tapestry which hangs in the Baptist Building chapel.

Hillcrest Church school and later gave art lessons at home. All this time, she kept on doing at-home art work for WMU. Often, when I would write the state missions program material, for adults, children, or both, she would do the posters and other illustrative materials that accompanied the programs.

How in the world could she get all that extra work done? I think I know her secret: she makes every minute count; she sets a goal for what she wants to get accomplished every day and organizes her time accordingly; she has the knack of doing two or three things at the time.

About 11 years ago, she planned and decorated her "dream house in the country," and she and Charles moved to Winndale from their Cooper Road house. Sewing is one of her hobbies. "I have always been fascinated with fabrics," she declares, "and needlework." In retirement, she said she plans to make quilts and work with stained glass.

She designed the Camp Garaywa emblem, and also she designed one of the logos of the MBCB used in previous years. Immortalized in needlepoint, it centers the tapestry in the Baptist Building chapel.

Probably she and her husband will be doing more traveling, too. Three years ago, he retired from 36 years with Delta Air Lines. Before then, they had visited Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Ireland, England, Ger-



Bettye Bingham

many, Israel — to name a few of their destinations.

On Dec. 18, 1990, a reception was given in Bettye's honor. Her fellow employees gave her a brass planter. (Another of her "loves" is growing plants and flowers.)

Her family presented special music. These included three children — Laura, wife of David Prevost, minister of music, Calvary Church, Tupelo, who sings with David and works in Heirloom Designing; Melany, piano teacher married to Shane Fortenberry, physical therapist at Grenada Hospital; and Chuck, Jackson landscape architect, married to Pamela Kinsley, medical technologist at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center; and seven grandchildren.

Cheerful, loyal, enthusiastic, lots of fun, creative, industrious, cooperative, ingenious, warmhearted, thoughtful — these are just a few of the words that describe her.

Thank you, Bettye, for being a friend.

Thursday, January 17, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

Devotional

By James Fancher

"I have purposed . . ."

"He did it on purpose" might be the words of one child telling on another. Doing something on purpose can be good or bad.

One of my favorite scripture passages is 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. It deals with giving of money, but the principle involved is applicable to so much more in our lives.

It is right for us to "purpose in our hearts" what we will or will not do. It is right for us to deliberate about it. It is good to do it cheerfully.

The psalmist said, "I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress" (Psalm 17:13).

Daniel purposed not to defile his body with the king's fancy food (Daniel 1:8). He evidently had purposed to meet God three times daily in prayer, no matter what happened (Daniel 6:10). It landed him in the den of lions but God protected him and got glory from it all.

Paul encouraged the Corinthians to plan to give and then he talked about God's involvement in carrying out those plans. Second Corinthians 9:8 says, "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything you have an abundance for every good deed."

We need to allow God to guide us as we determine our purposes and depend on his provision to enable us to fulfill them.

When our purpose coincides with God's purpose, we have his assurance that he will help us and that all will work together for good to those who love him (Romans 8:28).

Fancher is a consultant in the Department of Evangelism, MBCB.



Fancher

Irene Martin returns to full-time music

Irene Martin, secretary and proofreader for the Baptist Record for 5½ years, has resigned that position to resume her career as a full-time musician. She is available to churches and for other settings as a concert pianist, as a music conference leader, and as a banquet entertainer. She may be contacted at Rt. 4, Box 422, Forest, MS 39074 or by phone at (601) 625-8919. Martin is a composer and arranger as well as a performing musician. She has played for Senior Adult Chautauquas at Ridgecrest, Glorieta, Greenlake, and cruises, for the first national Senior Adult Convention in Fort Worth, and for Mississippi Baptist evangelism and Gulfshore conferences.

Letters to the editor

The devil is pleased

Editor:

If we accept the truth, "As a person thinketh in his heart so is he," then we have to acknowledge that we are rapidly becoming like the filth portrayed on television. You stated the problem well in your editorial in the January 3, 1991 issue of *The Baptist Record*. We are just kidding ourselves to think that we can play with the fire of sex, violence, and filthy language without being burned by it.

The puzzling thing to me is that our churches are so willing to take strong stands on abortion, lotteries, and the use of alcohol but ignore something which is far more devastating.

I don't believe that I have seen any references in our literature or heard anyone speak out about the influences of soap operas or other programs full of sex, filthy language, and violence. By refusing to speak out, can any impression other than that such is condoned be reached? Is our treatment of this not comparable to the cowardly way we dealt with racial issues 30 or 40 years ago?

Surely the devil is pleased when we ignore that most pervasive evil influence in our society while getting worked up about lesser things.

Ray A. Thompson
Jackson

Put Christmas in season

Editor:

Some of the most beautiful greeting cards we have received from business associates and others wish us "The

Joys of the Holiday Season and a Very Happy New Year."

Tragically, there is no mention of the word "Christmas" in their greetings. Some business people tell us they do not wish to offend their Jewish clientele by using the word Christmas; it appears they do not mind offending their Christian clientele by failing to include Christmas in their messages.

To our suppliers, vendors, and others with whom we do business, we are sending a letter telling them of their oversight and requesting that next year they consider including Christmas in their messages. I suggest everyone who received a "non-Christmas" card do the same.

It is more difficult to tell a friend or relative we did not fully appreciate his card, so perhaps this point could be addressed from pulpit and in Christian publications.

We are familiar with the saying, "Put Christ back into Christmas." Now it appears necessary to ask that "Christmas be put back into the season."

If Southern Baptist churches were to write letters now to the three major publishers of greeting cards telling them they were urging their congregations to consider purchasing only Easter and Christmas greeting cards with appropriate messages, you would see an immediate increase in the availability of such cards, and a decrease in those which do not reflect the spirit of these important days.

Jerry L. Luquire
Brentwood Christian Press

Guard calls pastor

Editor:

While this is not an official staff change, I thought perhaps it would be of interest to some of your readers, especially other ministers who might have been called to active duty with the National Guard.

I wish there were some way of getting in touch with other ministers and families in the same situation.

My husband, Ken Davis, pastor of Union Church, Waltham Association, Tylertown, since August, 1990 was called to active duty with the 155th Mechanized Infantry, based in McComb. He serves as chaplain's assistant and is in Ft. Hood, Texas. J. B. Stewart, a former pastor, will be filling the pulpit at Union during the pastor's leave-of-absence.

I will remain in the pastor's home during his absence.

Virginia Davis
Rt. 1, Box 2280
Tylertown, MS 39667

Here's a definite way to send the blues packing every time. When a negative thought tries to take root in your mind, just filter it out. You and you alone are the captain of the thoughts you allow to come aboard your mind. Allow only positive thoughts of success and weed out the others. It takes mental discipline to do this at first, but if you continue permitting only good thoughts to enter, the blues will depart your premises for other weaker minds — where they can breed more easily. — L. Perry Wilbur

Benches built for converts not yet won

SAPELE, Nigeria — Looking for faith in action? Consider the members of Bethel Baptist Church in Sapele town, Nigeria. They were so certain people would respond to the gospel during a recent door-to-door evangelism effort that they constructed several church benches for new believers and selected a plot of land for a new church. "That's faith!" exclaimed missionary Dorothy Osborne. Sure enough, 61 people became Christians during the evangelism campaign — the nucleus of a new congregation. The "Baptist Soul Winning Band," made up of Nigerian pastors and laymen, participated in the effort, which also was supported by Southern Baptist missionaries.

Two small church leader conferences are scheduled

Mississippi Baptists will have two Small Church Leadership Training Conferences to choose from on Feb. 2. These conferences are especially designed for leaders in churches with 150 or fewer enrolled in Sunday School.

One will take place at First Church, Charleston; the other at Blue Mountain College. Both will meet 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Each will offer identical training sessions.

Morning sessions in each will be taught by age groups. The study course book will be "Understanding Today's..."

The afternoon sessions will offer study course credit by studying books related to church programs.

The Sunday School leaders will study "Bible Teaching Through the Sunday School." Discipleship Training leaders will study "DiscipleAll: A Discipleship Training Manual."

Pastors will study "Guiding the Single Staff Church." Brotherhood leaders will study "Leading Baptist Men," or "Leading Royal Ambassadors."

Woman's Missionary Union leaders will choose from: "WMU Manual," "Baptist Women Manual," "Baptist Young Women Manual," "Acteens Leader Manual," "Girls in Action Leader Manual," and "Mission Friends Leader Manual."

In Church Music, leaders will study "Five Practical Lessons for Church Organists," "Five Practical Lessons for Church Pianists," "An A-B-C Primer for Church Musicians," or "Leading Younger Children's Choirs."

Lunch will be provided for all participants by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. However, those planning to attend should register with their local directors of missions by Jan. 28.

Willis to speak for MasterLife banquet

Avery Willis, adult section director, Discipleship Training Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, will be the keynote speaker for a MasterLife alumni banquet on Tuesday, Jan. 29, during the Evangelism Conference at First Church, Clinton. Willis will also be speaking in the conference.

Those who are certified MasterLife leaders, or who are friends of MasterLife are invited to this banquet which will be at 5 p.m. held between the afternoon and evening sessions of the conference.

Willis is the author of MasterLife which was introduced about 10 years ago. He will be updating the participants on the happenings as a result of MasterLife courses taken around the world. He will be previewing other LIFE courses which are following MasterLife.

Tickets may be secured from the Discipleship Training Department by calling 968-3800 or writing P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Tickets are \$5 each.

Staff changes

Lloyd Ford is the new minister of education at First Church, Olive Branch.

Jim Varnon has accepted the pastorate of Bissell Church, Tupelo. He has served at Thaxton (Pontotoc) for the past five years. Varnon was educated at Blue Mountain College, Clarke College, and Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

Benny Still has resigned as minister of music and youth at Woodville Church, Woodville, and pastor of Fort Adams Baptist Mission effective Jan. 20. He has accepted the call as pastor of Poplar Springs Church in Mendenhall.



Still

Still has served Woodville Church since July, 1982 and Fort Adams Baptist Mission since December 1986.

Senior adult corner

Pearlie R. Sullivan won first place in a church talent contest at Raleigh with her poem, "Memories." Mrs. Sullivan, 85, of Mize, and her husband, Virgie L. Sullivan, 86, celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on Dec. 2, 1990.

Alford accepts Alabama post

Richard Alford has been named as associate in the Associational and Cooperative Missions Department of the State Board of Missions, Alabama Baptist State Convention, Montgomery, Ala. He began his duties Jan. 1, assisting department director, Billy Nutt, in language missions and Christian social ministries.

Alford, 51, has been an interpreter and tutor for the hearing impaired and adjunct professor of Old Testament at Hinds Community College, Raymond. He served 10 years as a consultant in the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

A native of Louisiana, Alford was graduated from Louisiana College and New Orleans Seminary. He will be jointly employed by Alabama Baptists and the Home Mission Board, SBC.

Hollingsworth, 82, dies in Fulton

James P. Hollingsworth of Fulton, 82, died Saturday, Dec. 15. The former pastor was ordained in 1946 and served in Cleveland area churches. In Fulton, he was a member of First Church.

Hollingsworth was previously employed with Delta State University. He is survived by his wife, Osie Hollingsworth of Fulton; sons James Hollingsworth of Greenville; Rex Hollingsworth of Fulton; and J. C. Hollingsworth of Cartersville, Ga. He is also survived by a sister, Sadie Grantham of Laurel; 12 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Dec. 17 at First Church, Fulton. Burial followed in Hillcrest Masonic Cemetery, Fulton.

Names in the news



EIGHT STUDENTS active in BSU at East Central Community College, Decatur, went on Dec. 13 to the home of the foster child named Jeremy, a 7-year-old who has fetal alcohol syndrome, and is trainable mentally retarded. The BSU made it possible for students and faculty to give to help buy Jeremy a few Christmas presents.

"This was a great time for me to help someone. Jeremy was a lot of fun to play with," said J. C. Howell, publicity chairperson, BSU executive council, ECCC. Another student, Darlene Pate, stated, "It was fun watching Jeremy open his presents, and it was great to know I was a part of giving someone something that they needed."

Pictured clockwise, are Tammie Walker, student; Gayla Goodwin, BSU president at ECCC; DeDe, a child visiting from Conehatta; and Jeremy, opening present.



Pictured are members of the **New Hope Church, Foxworth**, with perfect attendance of from one to 35 years. They are Sherman Pounds, Terry S. Pounds, Virgie Lee Pounds (not pictured), one year; Willie Blackwell (not pictured), Jeff Brumfield (not pictured), Kenny Brumfield, Donald Lowery, Patsy Lowery, Tiffany Kroner, two years; Peggy Stringer, Kasey Pittman, Pud Stringer, three years; Kristen White, Will Stovall, four years; Kim Lowery, Amy Lowery, six years; Dustin Stringer, eight years; Julie Lowery, nine years; Sherrell Magee, Brandie Magee, 10 years; April Stringer, 11 years; Seth Stringer, 12 years; Jimmy Thomas, 21 years; and B. B. Stringer, 35 years.

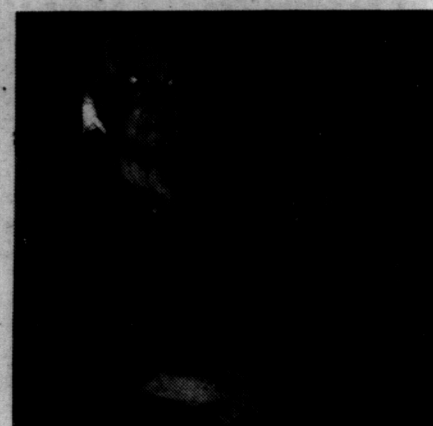


The Jolly Jesters are a clown troupe at Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg, who present the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ through clowning. They have participated in revivals, worship services, RA and GA functions, VBS preparation days, Sunday School parties inside and outside of Mississippi, Special Olympics, Civitan Camp for retarded citizens, and visitation to hospitals, nursing homes, and homes of the elderly. Anyone interested in the Jolly Jesters' clown ministry may contact Rawls Springs Church at (601) 268-2801. Pictured they are, left to right, Psalty, Tutti, Winkie, Penelope, and kneeling, Blossom, and Klutz.



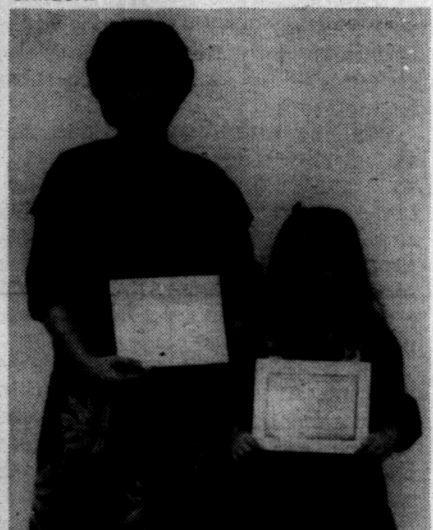
Baptist Student Union at Jones County Junior College had a program called "Dress the Children," Friday, Dec. 7. Through the seminar, eight committees have each raised \$100 for the event. Eight children from Jones County are sponsored by the BSU Executive Council and their committee members. The money was used to buy clothes and toys for the children. A party was held with a puppet show, a drama presentation of the Christmas story, singing, games, refreshments, and opening of the presents. John F. Summer Jr. is director of BSU.

Shoreline Park Church, Gulf Coast Association, ordained Kelly Isbell into the gospel ministry on Dec. 9. He is pastor of Calvary Church, Jasper Association. Marty Romero is pastor of Shoreline Park Church.



Fort Bayou Church, Vancleave, and Jackson Association honored Celia U. Mallette, 91, for her 66 years of service to her church and the association on Nov. 25. Robert Day, pastor, officiated and presented a plaque to Mrs. Mallette.

During her service to the church and association, she served in many offices, including church clerk for 25 years, teacher for classes for more than 25 years, as well as a godparent with her late husband, Hubert L. Mallette, of 25 children.



Bethel Church, Poplarville, recognized two members for perfect attendance in Sunday School. Pictured, are Emelda Jackson (left), 44 years and Tiffany Smith, three years.

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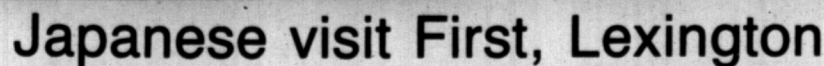
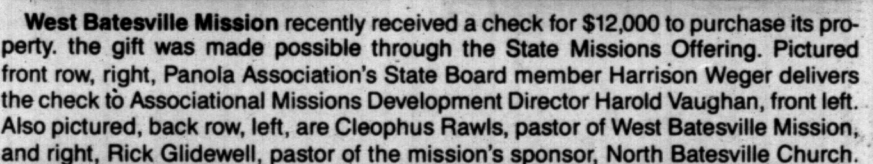
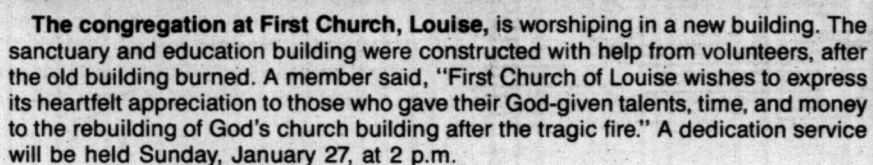
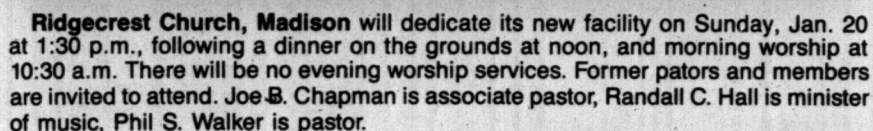
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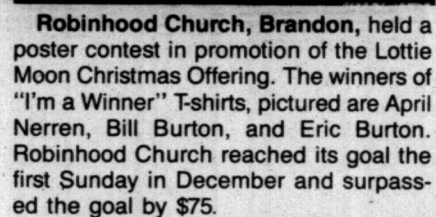
BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9



Pictured following the evening worship at First Church, Lexington, are, from left, Minoka Muraoka of Saga, Japan; Bill Barrett; Professor Takeshi Yamanaka of Futsukaichi, Japan; Michael O'Brien, pastor of First Lexington; Tomonari Yamanaka of Tokyo; Bruce Hill; and Aya Intsuzuka of Saga. Barrett and Hill were guests of the Futsukaichi Baptist Mission during the Japan-Mississippi 1989s Partnership Evangelism Campaign. Prof. Yamanaka was lay-pastor of the mission church, and now serves as visiting professor at the University of Richmond, Va. He accepted an invitation to visit First, Lexington, during the Christmas holidays and the four Japanese visitors led in the evening worship service, Dec. 30. The two young women study at universities in Indiana. The younger Yamanaka is visiting the United States.

Simpson Association serves as a distribution center for those in need at Christmas. The largest contribution is the toy ministry. This year 120 families, 380 children were assisted. Toys were donated by individuals, churches, Magee Dinner, People's Bank, and Wal-Mart. Boxes for the toys were donated by Anderson Box Company, assisted by Cal-Maine and Don Luper. The Baptist Men of First Church, Mendenhall, assembled the boxes. Fifty-six BYWs and Acteens from 10 churches sorted the toys. The toys were distributed by the Acteens of Oak Grove Church, RAs of Strong River Church, and Joel Eavenson, pastor of Mt. Zion Church. H. Glen Schilling is director of missions:

Parkhill Church, Jackson, has surpassed its goal of \$500 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Jimmy Sellers is pastor.



Robinhood Church presented for the first time a living nativity scene with 25 people involved. Alton Webb is music director. Don Nerren is pastor.

In 1990, five members of Mission Hill Church, near Wesson worked their way through either the whole Bible or the New Testament. They were Estelle Chance, Merle Hux, Robert and Jane Derrick, and Maud Thompson. Pastor Terry J. Moore preached through the Bible in 1990, following the "Read the Bible Through" plan in Open Windows.

Crossgates Church, Brandon is hosting the "Share the Light" Rally, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. "4 HIM" will be in concert along with Mike Curry, a youth communicator. This event is sponsored by youth ministries of Rankin County churches. A love offering will be taken.

An article in last week's Baptist Record concerning an upcoming church business administrators' conference (Jan. 24 in Jackson), stated that Tim Holcomb of the Sunday School Board will discuss a book. Holcomb will not be at the meeting, but the book, **A Maintenance Manual for Southern Baptist Churches**," compiled by Holcomb, will be discussed.

A Sunday School Board news release published Jan. 3 and titled "National convocation offers celebration of biblical message" included the month and days, but the year inadvertently was left off. The convocation will be April 21-23, 1992.

A pro-life political/legislative rally and walk sponsored by Mississippi Right to Life will be held Jan. 19, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Smith Park, Jackson. **A memorial/prayer vigil**, sponsored by Right to Life of Jackson, will be held on Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. on the south steps of the state Capitol.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — The Bivocational Ministers' Association held its organizational meeting in mid-December at Southland Church in Memphis, Tenn. More than 50 participants approved a constitution and bylaws and elected their first slate of officers.

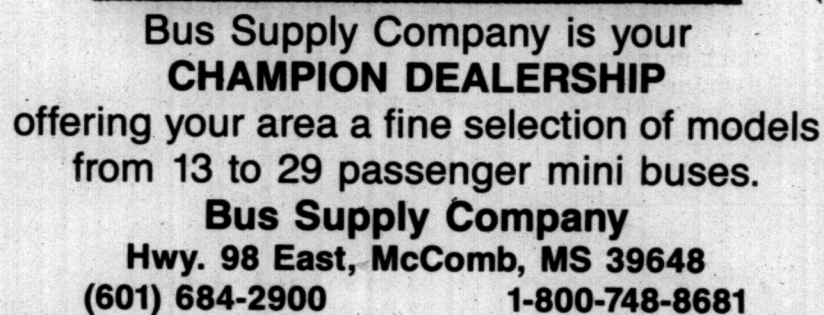
President of the association for 1990-91 is James Greer of Pineville, La. Other officers include: Charles Stewart, Ashland, Ky., first vice president; Leonard Foster, Carlsbad, N.M., second vice president; Frank Phillips, Gainesville, Fla., secretary; and Ken Cook, Jackson, Miss., treasurer.

Bivocational pastors attending the annual meeting of the National Council on Bivocational Ministries late in 1989 decided to create the organization. After discussion this year, participants voted to limit membership

to persons actually engaged in bivocational ministry on an on-going basis. Those who join during 1990-91 will be designated as charter members.

Members chose "ministers" instead of "pastors" for the association's name in order to encourage participation by bivocational ministers of music and other staff members. More than 9,000 Southern Baptist pastors serve bivocationally, and at least 25,000 ministers of music are part-time, volunteer or bivocational.

Glenn Ailshie, bivocational pastor from Mullins, S.C., predicted that the new association would have a "great impact on missions and evangelism." Noting the shortage of leadership in new work areas, he told the group, "We need people like us to move into these areas to undertake new church starts."



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"Do we respect the sanctity of human life?"

By Behny Still

Genesis 1:27; Matthew 5:13-16, 21-22, 27-28, 43-45a

Could it be in our age of "quick fix" answers on nearly every issue known to man that we have fumbled the ball when it comes to the sanctity of human life? It is important that we take a stand for our convictions. It is interesting to note that when God created humankind, he thought the creation was special, too. So special to God was his creation that the scripture records he "created them in his own image" (Gen. 1:27).

We are unique in our creation. We have different features, but the mystical something that makes us alike is the breath of God. We are living souls!

Our lesson this week deals with the sanctity of human life — in all its stages. Most Southern Baptists believe that human life begins at the moment of conception, when the sperm cell fertilizes the egg. To humanly interrupt the growth cycle in such a way as to cause the death of that new life is nothing short of murder and should be treated that way. One reason for God's



Still

LIFE AND WORK

creating humans as he did was to facilitate our ability to fellowship with him and with one another. Who do we think we are, to allow anything or anyone to come between the created and his Creator?

If we would fellowship with our Creator and with one another, the relationship between us must remain intact. Jesus said as much when he made the comparison, recorded in Matthew's gospel in the "salt and light" passage (vss. 13-16). Salt improves the flavor of most foods. It also keeps many foods from rotting. Light dispels darkness and exposes evil. So, salt and light together help make things better all around. As children of God we should keep our savor — not let anything dilute our effectiveness for the Lord. We should also bring light — the Light into areas of darkness to expose the pornography, abortion, and moral decay that cripple our society. Our children need to know that there are things in the Christian life and home that are not negotiable. How will they be able to make distinctions and responsible decisions on such issues unless we provide the proper example? Is it not time for adults to do some

changing of heart and attitude, to provide the type of Christian example our kids really need?

In Matthew 5:21-22, Jesus talks to us about the issue of murder. Beyond the idea of murder in taking the life of a person, the Master reminds us that even anger against a brother constitutes a serious offense in the eyes of God. We are to treat one another with dignity and respect — regardless of age or station in life. As Christians, God has given us a view of ourselves and others that is founded upon his infinite love and unerring wisdom.

With every breath you take, you reconfirm God's gift of life. With every heartbeat, you continue the creation that began in your own mother's womb. With every action, you live out the miracle of man — a miracle that, from conception, was created in the image of God. We cannot pretend that God approves the destruction of children or abuse in any fashion. We need to work to protect this precious gift of life.

Jesus commands in verses 27-28 that we are to live with sexual purity. If we took him seriously as a nation, there would be very few, if any, abortions. Sexual promiscuity among young people and adults violates respect for human life. It merchandises people and causes horrendous mental scars that can last a

lifetime. Jesus related that the command of the ancients not to commit adultery was a valid one. He carried it a step further by saying "everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart" (vs. 28). Jesus did not make these observations to cramp our style, but simply to help us maintain the purity of the relationship between us and his Father.

Lest we become pharisaical in our case against abortion, let us also be willing to fly the flag of God's forgiveness for those who have found themselves involved in sexual impurity, who are pregnant outside of a marriage relationship, who have had an abortion, and who have counseled or made an abortion possible. Let us help these people to know that he wants to forgive all who have sinned and restore them to a right relationship with himself and others. If our relationship with the Father is out of sync, then our relationships with our fellowmen will also be out of kilter.

If there must be a "quick fix," let it be that our Lord Jesus stands ready to receive all who will come to him for forgiveness.

Still is minister of music and youth at Woodville Heights Church, Woodville and pastor of Adams Baptist Mission.

God's laws of life and love and liberty and light

By Jerry Vardaman

Gen. 1:27; Matt. 5:13-16, 21-22, 27-28, 43-45a

Made in God's image

Today we briefly turn back to the pages of the Old Testament to be reminded that God is the Creator of life in every form. The highest form of his creation, of course, was man, made in his own image. What does this mean? It means that man has the power to communicate — to talk, to hear, and to understand precise and highly intelligent language in order to behave responsibly.

Man has the power to fellowship with one another and with God. We have the gift of prayer. In all of this we automatically understand that women are included — since man in this section of Genesis means mankind; that is the meaning of Adam — in Hebrew, Enosh/Ish are the words for individual man. Man has the gift of reason — to a degree not possible to attain among God's other creatures.

Man has the gift of sovereignty to rule over all that God has appointed him. Mankind has been blessed with high privileges, but privileges entail responsibilities.



Vardaman

BIBLE BOOK

God's Commandments

In the Old Testament we have spelled out the Ten Commandments — in both Ex. (20:1-17) and in Deut. (5:6-21; cf. 6:4-18). We must understand that God provided the Ten Commandments for our benefit and not for our injury. There is no way that any society can endure if that society disregards God's gracious and loving commandments.

In the New Testament period, the Jews read the book of Deuteronomy (Deut. 31:10) more than any other book. But some teachers in Jesus' time had perverted the teaching of the Old Testament. During the sabbatical years — every seven years apart — land, for example was to be returned to its original owners. Judaism had given that practice up in the time of Jesus. Jews were to loan money to each other; and if the debt carried over into the sabbatical year, what remained of the debt was to be cancelled.

The practice resulted in people refusing to loan money to each other, so as not to have any such cancellation of money owed to them. Jesus deliberately contradicted such teachings and said that if anyone were in need, that his disciples should give willingly to aid such

misfortunes, and should forget the debt Matt 5:42).

Jesus saw it necessary to reinterpret the O.T. and to deliver his disciples from false legalistic understandings which existed in his day. If one would understand what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, one must read again the book of Deuteronomy and then go to the Sermon on the Mount to see how Jesus interpreted that great O.T. book, in particular. Note a few of Jesus' emphases:

God's law of light — Most of us are turned off by rules and regulations. Maybe one of the reasons is our fear of breaking whatever rules we are to observe. But the law, as interpreted for us by Jesus, is like a light. We see so many confused people around us who do not have an inner light, or an outer light. Jesus says that when we live positively for him, the lights which guide us will soon be guiding others who are looking for those same kinds of dynamics and blessings which Christians enjoy: "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

God's law of love — Someone said to Abraham Lincoln after the North had won the Civil War: "Sir, we must destroy our enemies and destroy the South." Lincoln responded that when we love our enemies, we do destroy them. Lincoln learned such wisdom from Jesus:

"Love your enemies." I have seen what hatred can do in people's lives. The worst thing about hatred is that it destroys the people who practice it!

God's law of life: Everything about life is sacred. Even the death process is sacred and when that event faces us — as it will surely face everyone of us — we are to commit our ways into his hands and trust him, just as Jesus did: "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit." We hear a lot about life and death in modern society, but we should remember that we would never have had our acute abortion problem, if we had practiced what Jesus plainly taught us — not to even look on each other with adulterous eyes; but, we are to practice God's wise way of sexual purity, and we are to use every gift he has entrusted to us responsibly. The law of "Thou shalt not commit adultery" is almost forgotten in our modern pulpits, but remaining silent will not solve our dilemma. May God still speak to our modern needs through the kinds of lives his children are living.

God's law of liberty — Jesus said that if the Son will make us free, that we shall be free indeed (John 8:36). We will keep God's gracious and wise laws because we love and want to do his will. This is the only power which will enable us to please him.

Vardaman is professor of archaeology, Miss. State University.

Respect human life and give it the sanctity God intended

By Ruth N. Allen

Genesis 1:27; Matthew 5:13-16, 21-22, 27-28, 43-45a

John Ruskin, an English author, said, "God created man in his image and man has returned the compliment." Returning God's compliment becomes one of the Christian's highest goals. In creation, God gave mankind the breath of life, personality, reason, and the capacity to love. Creating mankind is the crown of God's creation. Since God has placed such high value on mankind, so should his disciples accord others the same assessment. We show our love for the creator when we respect



Allen

his creation.

Jesus elevated the sanctity for human life beyond rabbinical teachings. Often these teachings condoned revenge-motivated actions. Our Lord always responded compassionately to those in need. A human life was precious to him, and as his followers we must reflect the same compassion. He delivered the Sermon on the Mount as a spiritual, oral, and ethical standard for all disciples. He emphasized the vertical and

UNIFORM

horizontal relationship between God and mankind. A person who is right with God is, therefore, right with his fellowman. One cannot be wrong with his fellowman and right with God.

"Salt" and "light" (5:13-16), are used to describe the Christian way of life. In Jesus' day salt was used for medicine, as an item of trade, a preservative and flavor for food. However, salt which lost its saltiness lost its value, and became useful only as a base for highways, for literally, "it (salt) was trodden under foot." Likewise, a Christian disciple who respects human life fulfills God's wish to favorably permeate society. The disciple who does not respect human life diminishes himself in value to the Kingdom.

In the homes of Israel light was dim at best. No one would dare light a lamp and then conceal the rays with a measuring basket. Lighting was primitive, and each ray was vital for illumination which must not be dimmed by an unclear testimony. The overthrow of the forces of darkness, sin, pornography, abortion, gamb-

ing, lustful pursuits, and all manner of sinful entertainment demands Christians light the world with their spiritual influence.

Years ago a blind man always carried a lighted lantern each time he went out at night. Curious individuals would always ask, "Why carry a light when you cannot see?" The man would answer, "I carry the light to keep people from stumbling over me." Therefore, in our battle against the forces of Satan, Christians cannot afford to become stumbling blocks to others.

Again Jesus probes the depth of human nature (5:21-22). He states his prohibition against murder and calling someone stupid. In verse 22 the word "Raca" means "empty" or a fool. Thus, when an individual's concept of another degenerates to the calling of names, a situation exists which may result in injury or even murder. Jesus condemns such a situation in the lives of his disciples. Human worth demands more noble consideration.

Jesus amplifies the commandment on adultery with an additional command prohibiting lustful thoughts (5:27-28). There is an old rabbinical teaching (Bruce), "The eye and the heart are the two brokers of sin." Illicit sex often leads to unwanted pregnancies, which in turn often lead to abortions. Beginning with a

thought, a glance, or lustful desire, adulterous relationships may result. The avoidance of the overt act can be greatly reduced with proper respect and restraint toward others. Some use this passage to justify acts based on the concept, "You just as well do it as to think it." Individual thoughts hurt only the thinker. Participation in an act always involves others and results in natural consequences. Jesus commands us to love one another (5:43-45a). Christians should seek to attain the type of love Jesus exhibits.

Godly love involves a new approach to the manner in which one views the worth of people. "God makes the rain to fall on the just and the unjust." He does not show partiality to persons. He loves us all, and it behooves us to follow his example.

Resolve today to respect all human life and give it the sanctity God intended. Respect the born and the unborn with the same respect we have for our Lord, for we have been "made in His image." Return God's compliment by living your life in accordance with his will and purpose.

Allen, of Jackson, is the wife of the pastor of Ogden Church, Bentonla.

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A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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"GOD PERMITTED MY BLINDNESS FOR A REASON," SHE SAYS

LUCY CHING SPEAKS AT CALVARY

By Anne W. McWilliams

"I can't see you, so I won't know if you are enjoying my speech, or if you are going to sleep." Lucy Ching, blind author and social worker from Hong Kong, was speaking to those at the family missions banquet at Calvary Church, Jackson, on Dec. 5.

Others on program were Faye Robbins, Calvary WMU director; Carolyn Webb, soloist; James Street, pastor; and Polly and Glenn Morris, former missionaries to China, Thailand, and Hong Kong. Lucy and her companion, Ah Wor, while in Jackson, were houseguests of the Morris.

One of the Lucky Ones, Lucy Ching's autobiography, was the Royal Service magazine's Round Table book selection last July. The book has been translated into Danish, Hungarian, Finnish, and German. Its title is the writer's description of herself. Because of the mechanical difficulties of the Chinese typewriter for a blind person, she typed the manuscript in English.

Lucy retired in 1989 as government social worker with handicapped and elderly in Hong Kong, and has moved to the United States to devote more of her time to writing.

Born to a wealthy family in Canton, China, she was blinded when she was six months old. People in China believed that the eyes were the root of evil; consequently, when Lucy's mother noticed red spots in her baby's eyes, she took her to an herb doctor. A concoction he applied to her eyes destroyed her sight. Because of superstitions about blindness, families in China often abandoned their blind children or sold them to slave dealers to become beggars or prostitutes.

Though Lucy's family did not send her away or abandon her, they did not believe a blind child could go to school and learn. But against enormous odds, Lucy became the first blind person in China to attend school with sighted children. She had to convince teachers, parents, and everyone that a blind child could learn.

At age 8, she first learned about braille dots when her teenage brother sent out a call on his ham radio asking how a blind child could learn to read, and an American doctor in Manila answered.

Though her parents were not Christians, her brothers and sisters were



Left to right are Faye Robbins, WMU director, Calvary Church, Jackson; Ah Wor and Lucy Ching, formerly of Hong Kong; and Polly Morris, Jackson, retired missionary to Thailand and Hong Kong.

enrolled in a Baptist school. When she heard them chanting John 3:16, she asked, "Do you think that God would love a blind girl?"

"Well, he must," her sister said. "You are part of the world."

She wanted to go to church and learn more about God but felt her non-Christian parents would object. Remembering the song, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," she and her brother on three Sunday mornings set off for church after telling their parents they were going to visit "a friend." But on the fourth Sunday, Lucy realized while she was listening to the sermon that she did not want to act ashamed of her "friend, Jesus." So she went home and told her mother and father, "We have been to visit our friend, Jesus Christ."

"Then continue to visit your friend, Jesus Christ," her father said. "But get your Sunday breakfast and lunch and dinner from him. I'll give you 15 minutes to decide. Either you stay here and let me feed you or go and let him feed you." Lucy and her brother prayed and then Lucy said, "I'll go." Though only 9, she knew the meaning of the verse, "My grace is sufficient for you." For the years her father gave her no food on Sunday, she said. Years later, her parents became Christians.

To escape the Communists, the Ching family fled to Hong Kong and Macau, losing their possessions and thus creating a money problem.

Lucy had begun school in Canton, with no braille textbooks and without parental encouragement. She punched dots in newspapers to make braille notes; she taught herself English braille and later learned Cantonese braille. Her brothers and sisters, MKs, and others read to her. Later she studied at several other schools, both Chinese and English. Too, she was given a scholarship to Perkins Institute for the Blind in Boston and another scholarship to study at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

Even with her amazing memory, her unusual will-power, her willingness to work hard, and her strong Christian faith, she could not have defeated the odds without the help of Ah Wor, the lifelong friend and companion who had been her childhood amah. Ah Wor taught her how to tell time; she took Lucy shopping; she described scenery when they were walking. She used her life savings to pay bus fares, school expenses, people to read to Lucy, and paper for writing. She worked long hours with tedious beadwork to make extra money for these things. (Later, in the '60s, when Lucy studied at Leeds University in Britain, Ah Wor worked as a maid to buy Lucy's clothes and to send support money to Lucy's parents.) Once Lucy promised her, "I will never be parted from you." And they are still together.

After she finished Southwestern,

Lucy had many job offers in America and wanted to stay; but she knew it was God's will for her to return to Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong, she became a pioneer in education and rehabilitation of the blind. For 30 years she worked there with Ah Wor, companion and guide who was also performing her own ministry among the sick, blind, and elderly. Lucy won top awards for her achievements.

In 1959, Hong Kong's Social Welfare Department appointed her its first blind professional social worker. The community center where she worked provided workshops for the blind, deaf, and physically and mentally handicapped. By 1975 it was estimated that over 7,000 blind people had been through Lucy's hands, taught in classes, counselled, trained, or assisted in some way.

In 1978, she was given responsibility for all blind welfare work on the whole of Hong Kong Island. The next year she became rehabilitation officer of the Hong Kong districts of central, western, and off-shore islands; the work by then also included elderly as well as handicapped.

Once told that a social worker has no fixed working hours, she spent many hours of unpaid overtime visiting people in distress, comforting, counseling, advising, and sorting out problems.

Boston churches set 'impossible' goals

BOSTON (BP) — Larry Martin has only one explanation for eight years of growth in Greater Boston Baptist Association: "God is doing it."

"Almost everything our churches attempt is humanly impossible," says Martin, associational director of missions. "God keeps opening the doors, and we keep trying to catch up."

In 1982, Boston was the largest city in the United States without a Southern Baptist association. Since the association began in October that year, the number of congregations has tripled and ministries have mushroomed.

Volunteers are a key to the growth. Of 22 people who work for the association, only three receive a salary. Some volunteers are seminary graduates raising their support, others are retired people supported by their retirement income, and still others are business people who devote their off-hours to the association.

"In 1985 we began developing long-range plans. We set goals that were far beyond us," Martin recalls. "We began praying for volunteers and found that God was already answering our prayers. Volunteers are now in charge of every area of our associational life."

Thirty-three of the association's 49 churches have begun since the association was formed. Only 14 of the churches own buildings, yet the association is making plans to start 16 additional congregations.

Former Texans Elton and Lulinda Turner lend their knowledge of church organization to the infant congregations. They moved to the Boston area 20 years ago when they became aware of the need for lay leaders among New England Baptists. He owns a business, and she serves as associational Sunday School director.

The association includes 22 ethnic congregations which worship and

In addition to her job, she did volunteer work. Teaching evening classes in English conversation, she says, gave her a chance to explain the plan of salvation to those she taught. "If they don't have Jesus in their hearts, it is no use."

Another of her projects was transcribing the Bible into Cantonese braille. She taught four blind women braille to use a Perkins braille; two Baptist missionaries provided transportation for them to the church. There, on two evenings a week for 10 years, they handbrailled the Bible from dictation by sighted friends. In 1977, donations from Germany funded the purchase of braille printing equipment. Since then, the full Bible has been both printed and recorded in Cantonese and Mandarin.

Her salary was small. For 25 years she and Ah Wor lived in a small rented room in an apartment with two other families. Only in 1984 did they get an apartment of their own. Yet because of her work, more and more people in Hong Kong are accepting the blind and the handicapped.

Her unselfish attitude is revealed in her statement: "I firmly believe that God in his divine wisdom has permitted blindness to enter my life for a special reason — so that I can have a better understanding of handicapped people's problems and be able to offer them constructive assistance."

teach in 11 languages. The 4 million residents of greater Boston speak more than 100 languages.

Vicky Brunson, Home Mission Board Mission Service Corps volunteer, directs ethnic ministries for the association. She helps new congregations find places to meet and helps develop ethnic leadership. Coordinating summer day camps for ethnic children and teaching English to internationals are also among her responsibilities.

Since the association was formed, campus ministries have grown from two ministers on two campuses to 13 ministers on nine campuses. Only one of the campus ministers is paid.

Moscow Choir completes U.S. tour; singer sent home with 'ministry money'

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — A recently completed concert tour of the U.S. by the choir from Moscow Church of Evangelical Baptists garnered praise as well as some ministry money for the Soviets. About \$22,800, generated above expenses by love offerings and book and tape sales, will be sent back to the Soviet Union by the tour sponsors as funding for the ministries of the choir, called Logos, and the Soviet Evangelical Baptist Union.

The Oct. 25 - Nov. 13 tour, cosponsored by the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America and New Call to Peacemaking (a cooperative effort of the Church of the Brethren, Friends and Mennonites), covered 4,000 miles in 13 states and 35 performances. An estimated 18,400 people heard the sounds of the Soviets presented by the 43-member chamber choir and orchestra, which already has been invited back to perform another pro-

gram now in preparation.

"The tour's biggest success was the fulfillment of its purpose — to change perceptions about our Soviet brothers and sisters and to see them from a biblical perspective, not a political perspective — (to see them) as the Church," said tour coordinator Clyde Weaver, who made the journey with the musicians. Weaver said the farewells as the group departed from host families in each U.S. city "illustrate the degree to which church folk could identify with them (the Soviets) as part of the Church, the world and God's family. Music cuts through all the pretensions and speaks to one's heart."

Choir members also reported transforming experiences from their trip. Sergei Rebrov said during the Nashville stop, "For many years we thought about each other and read in

the newspaper that Russian people and American people have bad feelings towards one another. But now during our meetings (on the tour), we feel the love of your people. We feel that we are one family in Jesus Christ."

One event gave the choir and tour officials some moments of concern. One of the musicians, a 24-year-old bass player, left before the Lancaster, Pa., concert and did not return. A note he left behind said he had planned before the tour to defect, and he hoped the choir would understand that for personal reasons he had to leave. "The gist of the note was 'I'm sorry. I just can't go back but I hope you'll love me anyway,'" said Weaver. He said he hopes the incident, the first in which anyone has defected from a Christian group, does not inhibit the choir's return.

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